



GAIL FARBER, Director

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

June 04, 2014

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

# ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

47 June 4, 2014

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE  
A WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND  
COORDINATED INTEGRATED MONITORING PROGRAMS FOR SUBMITTAL  
ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

### **SUBJECT**

This action is to authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee to approve a Watershed Management Program and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Programs, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles for submittal to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, in accordance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit.

### **IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find that the proposed action in the recommendation below is either not subject to or exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this letter and in the record of the project.
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to approve a Watershed Management Program and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Programs, including revisions, for submittal to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, in accordance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit.

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

On December 28, 2012, Order No. R4-2012-0175, the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit (MS4 Permit) became effective. The new MS4 Permit encourages the 86 Permittees, including the County of Los Angeles (County), to collaborate with one another in the development of planning strategies and projects to comply with the Permit.

On June 18, 2013, the Board authorized Public Works to submit letters to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) stating the County's intent to collaborate with other Permittees to develop a Watershed Management Program (WMP), Enhanced Watershed Management Programs (EWMPs), and Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Programs (CIMPs).

On July 30, 2013, the Board authorized Public Works to enter into cost-sharing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), on behalf of the County, for the development of these programs with other Permittees in accordance with the MS4 Permit. A total of 70 Permittees formed twelve EWMP groups and seven WMP groups to develop the aforementioned programs. Of the groups formed, the County is participating in eleven EWMP groups and one WMP group. Each MOU specifies which Permittee will act as Contract Administrator on behalf of the parties.

In accordance with the MS4 Permit, WMP groups are required to submit their WMP by June 28, 2014, to the Regional Board, and all watershed groups (WMPs and EWMPs) are required to submit their CIMP by the same June 28, 2014, deadline. Each WMP or CIMP will be submitted to the Regional Board by the Contract Administrator for that watershed group. Upon the Regional Board's review and approval of the CIMP, each watershed group will be required to implement its approved CIMP within 90 days.

The purposes of the recommendations are to find that the recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to authorize the Director of Public Works or her designee to approve, one WMP and twelve CIMPs for submittal to the Regional Board including revisions. A revised submittal would only be authorized for minor revisions requested by the Regional Board which do not impact the original environmental findings. Participating in the development and submittal of the WMP and CIMPs is part of the County's ongoing program to comply with the requirements of the MS4 Permit.

## **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1). The recommended actions support the development of a cooperative partnership with local agencies to provide a public service in an effective and efficient manner.

## **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The WMP to be submitted by June 28, 2014, identifies strategies, best management practices (BMPs), and projects to achieve effective and collaborative watershed planning in accordance with the MS4 Permit. Upon the Regional Board's review and approval of the WMP, we will return to the Board for approval to execute MOUs for specific projects between the County and other participating Permittees.

The CIMPs to be submitted by June 28, 2014, will identify each watershed group's collaborative monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements in accordance with the MS4 Permit. The estimated annual cost to the County for all of the monitoring associated with the CIMPs is approximately \$3.6 million as shown in Exhibit A. This cost includes installation, operation and maintenance, sample collection, lab analysis, consultant support, contract administration, and contingencies. Subsequent to submittal of the CIMPs, we will return to the Board for approval of delegated authority for the County to enter into MOUs for each watershed group to implement its approved CIMP.

The County's and other participating Permittees' fair share of the cost to implement these programs will be agreed upon within each watershed group and reflected in each MOU. Costs are expected to be distributed based on the land area over which each Permittee has jurisdiction or responsibility. The groups are expected to distribute the cost annually throughout the remaining years of the current MS4 Permit term, namely Fiscal Years 2014-15 to 2016-17.

The Department of Public Works General Fund Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget includes \$12 million net County cost for the Unincorporated Area Stormwater Program; these funds may be utilized for the WMP and CIMPs and will continue to be analyzed/considered during the annual budget process to determine if sufficient funding is available for the Unincorporated Area Stormwater Program requirements.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On December 28, 2012, the new MS4 Permit (Order No. R4-2012-0175) became effective. The MS4 Permit encourages permittees to develop, submit, and implement WMPs and CIMPs collaboratively. Participating in the development and submittal of the WMP and CIMPs is part of the County's ongoing programs to comply with the requirements of the Permit.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

The proposed authorization to approve the WMP for submittal is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. The WMP includes potential increased enforcement of existing ordinances, purchasing street sweeping trucks, the installation of trash excluders, and may also include installing biofiltration systems, bioswales, and pervious catch basins to improve the water quality of runoff in the portion of unincorporated County within the Los Cerritos Channel watershed. These proposed improvements are within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria set forth in Sections 15301(b), (c), (f), and (h), 15303, and 15304(b) and (f) of the CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1(e), (i), (j), (s) and (x) (14) and (18), 3, and 4(c) and (k) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G. These exemptions provide for the minor alteration or repair of existing facilities, maintenance, or alteration to existing landscaping, repair of irrigation systems, and new street drainage facilities that do not discharge to private property. These improvements involve negligible or no expansion of an existing use and will not involve the removal of mature, healthy, scenic trees. Additionally, these improvements are not in a sensitive environment and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make these exemptions inapplicable based on the project records. Further, enforcing existing ordinances and purchasing street sweeping trucks are not projects as defined by Section 15378(b) (2) of the CEQA Guidelines.

The proposed authorization to approve the CIMPs for submittal is also categorically exempt from CEQA. Implementation of the CIMPs will involve the installation of monitoring devices for data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities that will not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Implementation may also involve soil analysis, drilling, boring, trenching, and backfilling. These activities are within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that they meet the criteria of Sections 15304 and 15306 of the CEQA Guidelines and Classes 4 and 6 of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G. These activities are part of studies leading to possible future actions, which the County has not approved, adopted, or funded.

These activities will not occur in a sensitive environment and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make these exemptions inapplicable, based on the project records.

Upon the Board's approval of the recommended actions, the County will file Notices of Exemption for the WMP and CIMPs with the County Clerk in accordance with Section 15062 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

There will be no negative impact on current services.

**CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Community and Municipal Services Cluster and one copy to the Department of Public Works, Watershed Management Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail Farber". The script is cursive and fluid.

GAIL FARBER

Director

GF:GH:ba

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Office (Rita Robinson)  
County Counsel  
Executive Office

**EXHIBIT A**

**ESTIMATED MS4 MONITORING COSTS  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY UNINCORPORATED AREAS**

<b>EWMP/WMP Group Name</b>	<b>FY 14/15 - FY 18/19 Estimated Annual Average</b>
Upper Santa Clara River Watershed	\$469,000
Upper Los Angeles River Watershed Group	\$269,000
Rio Hondo/San Gabriel River Water Quality Group	\$83,000
Upper San Gabriel River	\$509,000
Malibu Creek Watershed Group	\$402,000
Marina del Rey	\$844,000
North Santa Monica Bay Coastal Watersheds	\$731,000
Santa Monica Bay Jurisdictions 2 & 3	\$6,000
Peninsula EWMP Agencies	\$14,000
Ballona Creek	\$43,000
Dominguez Channel Watershed Management Area Group	\$163,000
Alamitos Bay/Los Cerritos Channel Group	\$56,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,589,000</b>